

Message Text

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17-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

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P 010917Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 850

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SEOUL 7337

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 7337 VICE 7338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SHIK NOVEMBER 1 ANNOUNCED CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. HE SAID THAT ROKG HAD REMOVED KIM TONG-UN FROM HIS POSITION AND WAS INVESTIGATING HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT; THAT ROKG WOULD NOT HOLD KIM TAE-CHUNG RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-STATE WORDS AND ACTIONS WHILE ABROAD; AND THAT PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WOULD VISIT JAPAN AND EXPRESS REGRET OVER INCIDENT.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SHIK MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS RE SETTLEMENT OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE IN BRIEF TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OF NOV. 1.

A. CONCERNING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF KIM TONG-UN, ROKG HAS ALREADY REMOVED HIM FROM HIS POSITION (I. E., FIRED HIM) AND HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT. APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST HIM DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF
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INVESTIGATION.

B. ROKG WILL NOT HOLD KIM TAE-CHUNG RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO KOREA AND PARTICULARLY DURING HIS STAY IN JAPAN, PROVIDED THAT HE DOES NOT REPEAT SUCH ANTI-STATE WORDS AND ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE.

C. PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WILL VISIT JAPAN TOMORROW TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH PRIME MINISTER TANAKA. ON THAT OCCASION PRIME MINISTER KIM WILL EXPRESS REGRET TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE THAT CASE OCCURRED IN THE HEART OF THEIR CAPITAL; THAT VICTIM AND PERPETRATORS WERE KOREANS AND THAT INCIDENT WAS OCCASION FOR PUBLIC OUTCRY.

2. REPLYING TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT KIM TAE-CHUNG'S TRAVEL, FOREIGN MINSTER REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT A PASSPORT APPLICATION BY KIM WOULD BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENT AS ANYONE ELSE. HE RECALLED THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG HAD INDICATED DURING TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO TRAVEL AT PRESENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL07337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731161/aaaabsrp.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SHIK NOVEMBER 1
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA, (KIM TAE-CHUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005